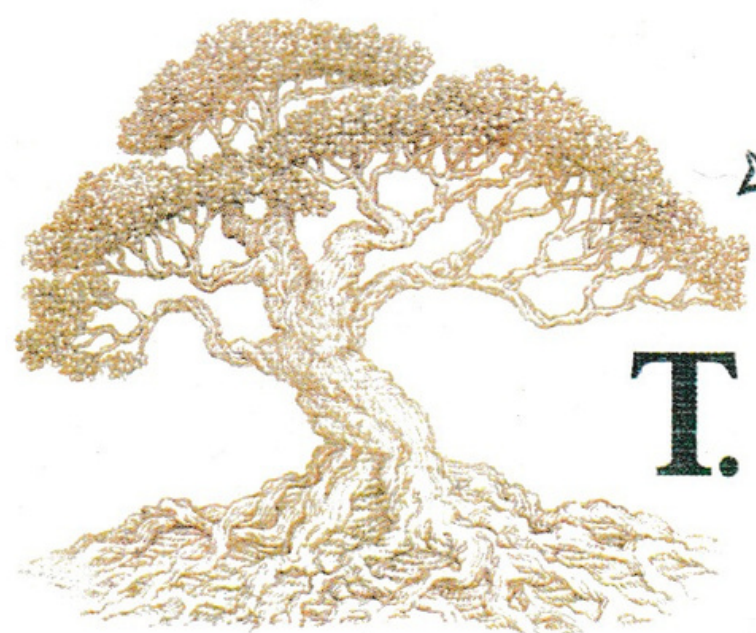




★ ★ ★ ★ ★
T. A. BARRON

Dear Devon,

Thanks for your wonderful letter! You are clearly a wonderful young man.

Your letter ends with the line "Merlin lives!" Yes, he does, Devon. In you. I really mean that. For whatever great things Merlin accomplishes in those books, he does them because of the wondrous power he has down inside himself. And his power — his magic — is really not so different from yours.

Think about it. On the very first page of The Lost Years of Merlin, a half-drowned boy washes ashore. He has no home, no hope, and no memory at all. He doesn't even know his own name!

But he does have that special something down inside — and that will enable him to become one day, the mage of Camelot and the greatest wizard of all time.

Now... washing ashore isn't just a tough physical experience. It's also a metaphor,



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T.A. BARRON

an image of what it feels like to be lost and alone and confused in life. Believe me, I have felt that way many times. Have you? I'm sure you have. So you understand exactly what Merlin felt like on that terrible day.

And yet, because of the inner hero inside yourself, you have found the strength to go on. You have stood up on that shore, brushed the sand off your arms and legs, taken a deep breath — and started all over again.

Just like Merlin.

You, too, have shown all the qualities of a hero. You, too, have amazing gifts down inside. And you, too, have a truly wonderful future ahead for yourself.

So, just as you said: Merlin lives!

Thanks so much for touching me with your magic.

My very best wishes to you,

T.A. Barron

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